

ABSTRACT**MACHINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF BEVERAGES**

5 A closure mechanism for a beverage preparation machine
comprising a fixed lower part, an upper part rotatable
relative to the lower part and a cartridge holder interposed
between the lower part and the upper part and being
rotatable relative to the lower part and the upper part,
10 wherein the lower part comprises inlet piercing means and
outlet piercing means for forming, respectively, an inlet
and an outlet, in use, in a cartridge received in the
cartridge holder, wherein rotation of the upper part towards
the lower part causes the upper part to engage the cartridge
15 holder and to move the cartridge holder into contact with
the lower part and at the same time to cause, in use, the
inlet piercing means and the outlet piercing means to pierce
a cartridge received in the cartridge holder.